

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of Radiation Protection

June 21, 2103

TO: File

FROM: Kristen Schwab

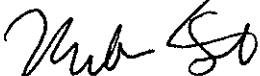
SUBJECT: June 19, 2013 Contamination Glove Box at PFNW

Curt Cannon called waste management staff at 1:30 pm on Wednesday June 19 to report an incident with a recently offloaded DOE glove box containing internal Pu and Am contamination. At approximately 11:45 am PFNW staff began offloading two glove box sections from their shipping container on the outdoor pad outside of the MW truck bay. Prior to completion of the offload and placement of the glove box sections in a ventilated building, alpha contamination was found on one of the glove box sections. Preliminary air sample results, and personnel survey and nasal smear results did not indicate any airborne release of material to the environment or any uptake or contamination of personnel. Preliminary fixed and removable survey results did indicate the presence of contamination: on the pad outside the truck bay (max 7,500 dpm alpha fixed, 2,000 dpm alpha removable), the rigging used to lift the glove box sections out of the shipping container (max 500 dpm alpha removable), the forklift (max 50,000 dpm alpha removable), and the underside of 1 of the glove box sections (max 500,000 dpm alpha removable). Waste Management staff responded and arrived at the site at approximately 3:15 pm. By this time PFNW staff had the glove box sections secured in WSB-01 and were actively trying to remove the fixed contamination from the outdoor pad outside the truck bay.

This shipment consisted of 1 shipping container with 2 glove boxes sections. These glove box sections were surveyed by DOE prior to shipment and, as reported by the PFNW RSO, free of external contamination prior to shipment. These glove box sections were wrapped with a tape like material prior to placement in the shipping container. The offload and removal process entailed removing the lid of the container, taking large area wipes, removing the glove box sections and placing them on dunnage, taking tech smears, then moving the glove box sections into the facility. This shipment did not include preinstalled rigging which required PFNW staff to enter the shipping container to slip the rigging under the glove box sections. PFNW staff that entered the shipping container was not wearing PPE.

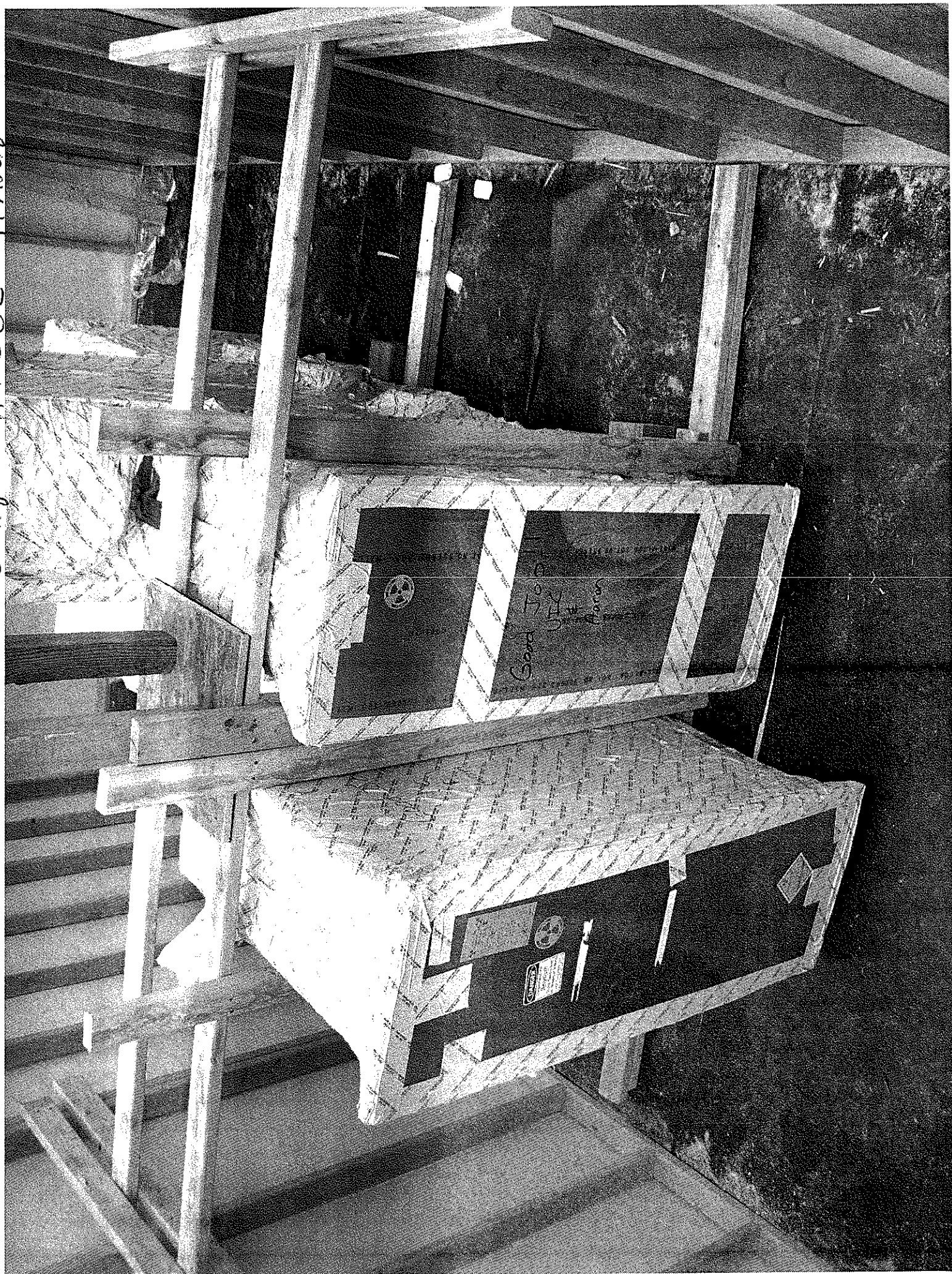
Waste section staff has concerns with the practice of opening shipping containers outside and moving equipment with high levels of internal alpha contamination without the use of secondary containment. Waste section staff recommend future receipts of shipments containing high levels of alpha internal contamination be suspended until the licensee submits their incident report, including root case analysis, the department reviews this report, the licensee develop an offloading procedure that minimize the spread of contamination, and the licensee take air samples during offloads.

PFNW staff is performing an investigation and will submit their incident report to the office.

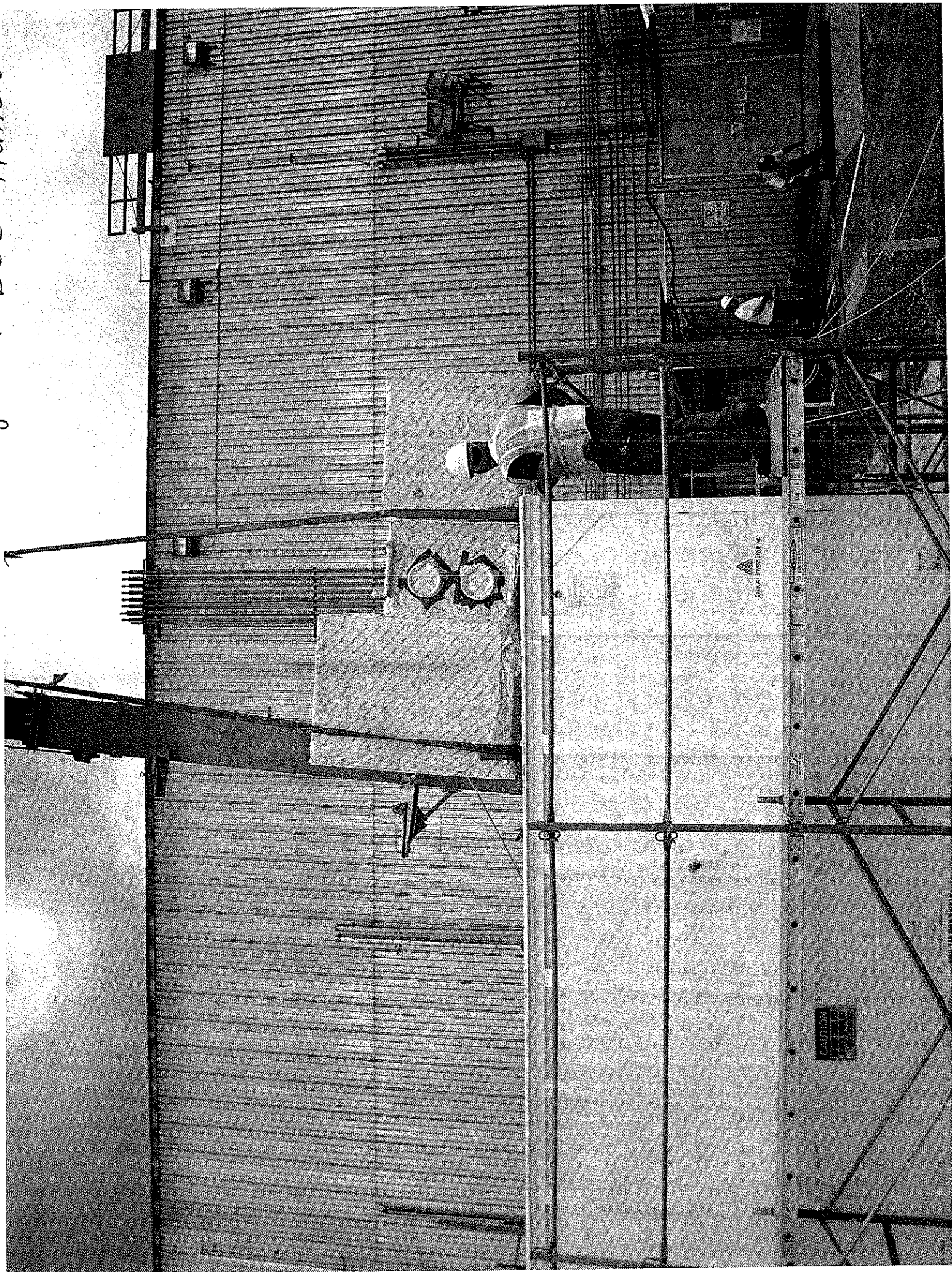


Kristen Schwab
Waste Management

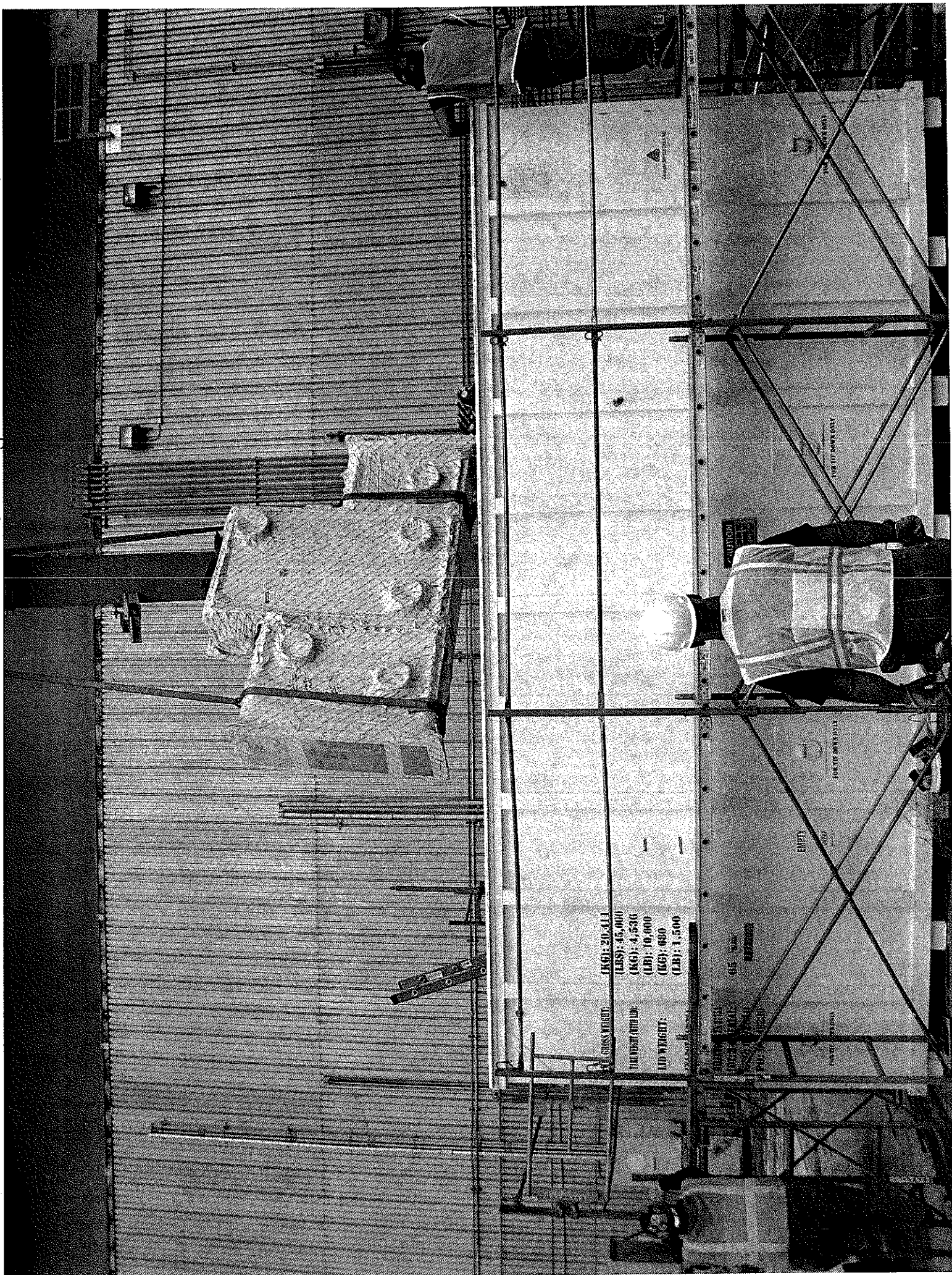
loading AT DOE Hanford



Locating AT-DOE Hanford



loading AT DOE Harbor



Loadline A+ DOE Handford

